

## PLAN REBUKE FOR WILSON ON FREIGHT TAX

Democrats in the House to Hold a Caucus to Repudiate Measure.

## WANT PRESIDENT TO OPENLY ESPOUSE BILL

Will Make Him Take Responsibility—Executive May Answer To-day.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—In the face of a statement made by Representative Underwood, that President Wilson intended the freight tax provision of the revenue bill, the Democrats of the House have called a caucus to be held to-morrow night to adopt a resolution repudiating this measure.

The action of the insurgents in thus making a move to repudiate the pending revenue bill amounts to a rebuke of the Administration, as well as the Underwood leadership. This is generally recognized among members of the two Democratic factions that have come into being as the result of this proposed legislation.

Everybody knows that when Mr. Underwood told his colleagues that the President approved the freight tax he spoke by direct authority. The insurgents express no doubt on this score, but they insist that Mr. Wilson wants the revenue bill passed in its present form by the House, so in public. The President is expected to speak on the subject on his return to Washington to-morrow.

Within the past twenty-four hours a change has come over the Underwood leaders. On Saturday they announced a purpose to stand by the freight tax to the end. To-day some of those identified with the responsible leadership of the House advanced the suggestion that possibly Mr. Underwood had "misunderstood" the President's attitude toward the freight tax.

**An Unpopular Tax.** Republicans charge that the truth of the situation is that nearly all the House Democrats have reached the conclusion that the freight tax would prove to be the most unpopular measure ever levied on the people; that it would increase the cost of necessities far beyond the amount of assessment, and that, generally speaking, it would give the Democrats more trouble in the forthcoming election than any enactment furthered since the Democrats came into control.

The expectation here now is that President Wilson will make an announcement which will result in the Democratic leaders making a third attempt to write a revenue bill that will be acceptable to the majority of the Democratic House. The President does otherwise, he will go contrary to the advice of men prominent in the management of the Democratic National Committee, and many members of Congress and party leaders in various sections of the country.

The President can have the freight tax if he wants it, but he will have to shoulder full responsibility for it. On the other hand, if he rejects the tax his action is likely to bring about bad blood between the White House and some leaders in Congress.

It is taken for granted by most Democrats of the House that the freight tax will be abandoned. This would necessitate rewriting the bill. If the bill now stands it is made up of the following items only:—An increase in the tax on beer from \$1 to \$1.50 a barrel; a tax of 20 cents on wine, and a tax of 3 cents on freight. The freight tax, which would raise \$65,000,000 a year, is the keystone of the structure. With it discarded, probably would necessitate a bill taxing many articles instead of a few.

**Favors Stamp Tax.** Early in the consideration of the revenue bill it was suggested that in the final analysis the emergency measure would be patterned after the stamp act of 1898. A prominent leader of the House made the statement to-day that despite the vexations of a stamp tax he saw no alternative but to adopt the bill which offered the bill passed at the time of the Spanish war. This provided taxes on hundreds of articles. But the feature of the bill, it was said to-day, in an authoritative quarter, would be a provision raising the normal rate of the income tax from 1 percent to 1 1/2 percent.

The first revenue bill drawn by the Democrats provided for an increase in the rate of the income tax to 1 1/2 percent, and a reduction in the exemptions from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and from \$4,000 to \$5,000. The first bill was rejected at the instance of the President, who came to the conclusion that the reduction in the exemptions would arouse great protest and probably make the law more unpopular than it is at present.

If finally resort is had to the income tax to raise additional revenue, as now seems likely, the only change in the law will be the increase in the normal rate as indicated.

The increase in the normal rate would yield approximately \$28,000,000. The rest of the \$100,000,000 required would be raised by taxes on automobiles, wine, whiskey, some forms of tobacco, soft drinks, amusement tickets and possibly taxes on the makers of automobiles, medical compounds and other things.

**Wilson to See Leaders.** On his arrival here to-morrow President Wilson will see Representative Underwood. He is also expected to confer with Representatives Kitchin and Garner, leaders of the revolt. Out of these conferences is expected an agreement satisfactory at least on the surface to the leaders of the two factions.

## Mr. Sharp's "Offence" Is Not Yet Made Clear

Objection May Lie in Phrase, "Whoever Wins," Used With His Expression of Opinion That Good Will Result From War.

CENSORS HAND SEEN IN CABLED REPORT

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PARIS, Sept. 14. (Censored).—The substance of the interview given by Ambassador Designate William G. Sharp to James Gordon Bennett and which when immediately published here caused the censors to warn newspaper men against comment, was obtained to-day by the correspondent for THE SUN.

Mr. Sharp began by explaining that he was making himself familiar with the political situation and conditions of the moment, and so preparing himself to take over at the proper time the duties of American Ambassador to France.

"War," said Mr. Sharp, "has upset many diplomatic and other precedents. It is obvious that Mr. Herriek, at this critical time, could not desert his post. His knowledge and experience have been invaluable in dealing with the exceptional and trying situation created by the war."

Mr. Sharp said that he had just conferred with Mr. Herriek, whom he complimented in the highest terms. He said that he had found Mr. Herriek as popular in France as in America.

**No Change in Policy.**

"An Ambassador's first duty," said Mr. Sharp, "is to maintain the friendly relations between his own country and the country to which he is accredited. It is almost unnecessary to say that there will be no change in this policy with my assumption of the duties of Ambassador. The friendship of the United States for France was never firmer than it is to-day. Personally I am a fervent admirer of France and of French art and culture. Probably no country in the world is more admired for the high degree of its civilization than is France. But it is my duty as a future representative of the United States to be absolutely neutral as regards everything concerning the present conflict."

"It cannot be too strongly stated that the United States will not swerve from its attitude of strict neutrality. The more impartial we remain the stronger will be our position, and the better it will be, indeed, for all of the belligerents when the time comes to discuss the conclusion of peace. For I shall not be indiscreet if I voice the thought held by many persons that the role of the United States will be found to be most important at that moment."

The eventual mediation of America, Mr. Sharp continued, could scarcely be foreshadowed with greater clearness than by the recent offer made by President Wilson to all of the Powers. That offer was timely, and although it could not then be accepted, it had the effect of setting men's minds to thinking.

"What nation," asked Mr. Sharp, "could be more fitted than the United States to lead the peace negotiations?"

Within our nation are amalgamated all of the races now at war. Our sincerity is undoubted and our natural position of neutrality and impartiality is such that America's voice would surely be heard at the opportune moment."

"Good, whoever wins."

Mr. Sharp said that he himself is a member of several peace organizations. America believes, he said, that the present war will complete the revolution felt by the world toward warfare and that the world's public opinion will favor peace. Never will there be a truer moment, said Mr. Sharp, for some scheme of general disarmament. He would like, he added, to see the United States partake in an epoch making treaty sealing international accord. Mr. Sharp was of the opinion that atrocious as the European conflagration is, good will come out of it for all nations, whoever is victorious, provided Europe ceases lasting peace.

It is suggested here that possibly the last sentiment that "good will come out of it, whoever is victorious," might have been displeasing to censors and others.

**NO INQUIRY ORDERED.**

Bryan Says He Has Not Heard of Sharp Interview.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—State Department officials continue to insist that they know nothing of the interview which Ambassador Sharp is said to have given in Paris and that no inquiry into the matter is being made by the Ambassador or of the American Embassy at Paris.

Confirmation was received here to-day unofficially of the statement that the French Government refused to permit the reported Sharp interview to be published in the country. It is understood that the French censor said that neither now nor in the future would he permit the interview to be cabled out of France.

Secretary Bryan said to-day he had not heard of the interview, adding, in response to a question, that he did not consider it of it in the newspapers as "hearing" of it.

**NO DUMDUMS USED, SAYS GREY.**

French and British Armies Have Only Approved Pattern Arms.

LONDON, Sept. 14.—The German accusation that British and French troops are using dum dum bullets has been categorically denied by Sir Edward Grey, the British Minister of Foreign Affairs. The denial has been published in Holland. It is as follows:

"His Majesty's Government declares publicly and officially that the statements made by the German General Staff to the effect that dum dum bullets have been found in the hands of British prisoners are entirely untrue. Neither the British nor the French army has in its possession or has issued any but approved patterns of rifle and revolver ammunition, which do not infringe in any respect the provisions of the Hague Convention."

Edward Grey, "Foreign Office, London."

**DEMAND SHIPS' DECLARATIONS.**

Tenders Entering French Ports Must Tell Crews' Nationality.

BORDEAUX, Sept. 14.—Every trading ship entering a French port must make a declaration to the military authorities, setting forth the nationality of the ship and the citizenship, in detail, of her crew. The purpose of this move is to provide for the transportation of all alien captives to a holding of the Minister of Marine, just published in the *Journal Officiel*.

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## 25 WORD LIMIT FOR TUCKERTON STATION

Government Regulations for Wireless Messages at That Point Are Announced.

TO PREVENT CONGESTION

Official Business to Take Precedence Over Private—Radio-grams Must Be Censored.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Special regulations for the radio station at Tuckerton, N. J., which has been taken over by the United States Government, were announced at the Navy Department to-day.

The chief feature of the regulations for the Tuckerton station as compared with those for radio stations in general is that all private, press or commercial messages must be limited to twenty-five words, including address and signature.

The main reason for the limitation made regarding the Tuckerton station is the fact that this station was designed for communication with the German coast, but under present conditions of the atmosphere such communication can be had for only about three hours a night.

The new rules in full are: "The station shall be used only for transmitting to or receiving from shore stations in Europe and the United Kingdom."

Naval officials at this station must assure themselves that the messages handled are strictly neutral in character. No unneutral messages will be permitted to be handled.

**Cipher Messages.**

"No messages in cipher or code shall be transmitted or received for delivery unless the United States officials are furnished with a key to such messages."

"No messages in foreign languages or in untranslatable terms shall be transmitted or received for delivery unless the United States officials are supplied with translations of such messages in the English language and the official censors are satisfied with the bona fides of the translations."

"Official radiograms from officials of the United States Government or from officials of foreign governments shall be transmitted or received for delivery unless the United States officials are supplied with translations of such messages in the English language and the official censors are satisfied with the bona fides of the translations."

"All commercial or private radiograms must be limited to twenty-five words, including address and signature, and such radiograms must be in plain language. No code or cipher messages for this class of radiograms will be received for transmission. They must not include any arbitrary terms or unintelligible matter which has not been explained to the officials."

"Radiograms involving news despatches will not be in any way different from commercial or private radiograms."

"All commercial or private radiograms or news despatches will be accepted only at the sender's risk and will be transmitted in the order of receipt at the station, and furthermore there can be no guarantee of delivery at foreign points."

**Signature Required.**

"All addresses must be in plain language and must consist of at least four words and all radiograms must be accompanied by a signature which shall be limited to twenty-five words."

"All messages must be in the form of radiograms and shall apply the cable word count without minimum and shall not be transmitted unless fully prepaid at point of origin."

"No messages will be transmitted or delivered until they have been first paraphrased by the censors as may be necessary to insure neutral character, whether they are received or to be sent in plain language or in code, cipher or foreign language."

"Messages shall be sent or delivered only counterbalanced by the censor."

"The station charges of the Tuckerton station will be 25 cents a word cable count, without a minimum charge."

"In order to insure neutral character, monthly on the regular forms to be filled out by the Superintendent of Radio Service, Radio, Va."

"Cipher and code books furnished, as well as contents of all messages, will be considered as confidential."

"The call letters of the Tuckerton station will be WGG."

**PUNISH GERMAN FOR SNEERS.**

Crowd at Nice Averages Insult to Wounded French Soldiers.

NICE, Sept. 14.—While 700 wounded soldiers were being put on automobiles to be taken to the hospitals last night at the railway station the German proprietor of a hotel at the terminus made some insulting remarks about them.

The crowd rushed into his establishment and sacked it completely. Troops beat the populace back and several arrests were made.

The German had been allowed to remain here because his son is a French soldier.

**FRON ON GERMAN WAR LOAN.**

International Bankers Deny That New York Is Participating.